



TO: Sen. Ted Kennedy and Rep. James Albis, Chairmen,
And the Members of the Committee on the Environment

Supplemental Testimony from Rivers Alliance of Connecticut
For Public Hearing, March 11, 2015

Rivers Alliance of Connecticut is a statewide non-profit organization, founded in 1992, as a coalition of river organizations, other conservation non-profits, individuals, and businesses working to protect and enhance Connecticut's rivers, streams, aquifers, lakes, and estuaries. We promote sound water policies and water stewardship through education and assistance at the local, regional, and state levels.

Bills 1061, 1062, 5286, and 6957: Support.

[S.B. No. 1061](#) AAC THE FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY OF STATE PARKS.

[S.B. No. 1062](#) AA PROVIDING CONTINUED FUNDING FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION'S RECREATION TRAILS PROGRAM. Rivers Alliance supports both these acts. The state parks are a major environmental and economic asset to Connecticut, as shown in a study by the UConn Center for Economic Analysis (December 2011). The study showed that outdoor activities on state lands have an economic benefit of more than \$1 billion a year and 9,000 jobs. The study also documented that for every dollar the state spends on the state park system, it receives a return of \$38 in economic activity. The Recreation Trails Program supports the creation and maintenance of trails on land and water. Rivers Alliance received a grant from this program to develop a website as an information and referral center for all who are interested in paddling and creating conservation trails. The website is widely used and attracts people to our streams and saltwater trails -- and to all the businesses along the shores.

[H.B. No. 5286](#) AA PROHIBITING THE IMPORT AND SALE OF COSMETICS THAT CONTAIN MICROBEADS. We urge the CGA to push forward rapidly with this prohibition. The microbeads add to the plastic soup that is fouling our seas; moreover, they attract and retain toxins many times their mass. They become increasingly lethal in water bodies. They are not necessary to cosmetic exfoliants and teeth cleaners. There are substitute products.

[H.B. No. 6957](#) AA ESTABLISHING A HOUSEHOLD BATTERY RECYCLING STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM. We strongly support purpose of this program. The public is getting mixed messages about how to dispose safely of used batteries. There was testimony on March 11 that the batteries will be reduced to useful chemical components. We are not qualified to comment on the details of the proposed program.

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